

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 USIE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2749

INFO CNO WASHDC IMMEDIATE

CINCUSNAVEUR IMMEDIATE

COMFAIRMED IMMEDIATE

COMSUBGRU EIGHT IMMEDIATE

COMSUBREFITRAGRU LA MADDALENA IMMEDIATE

NSO LA MADDALENA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 12223

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, MNUC, IT, SENV

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE VISIT LONDON TIMES CORRESPONDENT TO
LA MADDALENA

1. ROME CORRESPONDENT LONDON TIMES PETER NICHOLS WILL BE VISITING NORTHERN SARDINIA THIS WEEK. IN CALL AT EMBASSY AUG. 25, HE ASKED ABOUT POSSIBILITY OF INCLUDING A VISIT TO USN FACILITY AT LA MADDALENA. NICHOLS IS AWARE OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONFERENCE PLANNED IN ROME FOR LATE SEPTEMBER AND WOULD LIKE TO ACQUIRE SOME BACKGROUND TO PREPARE HIMSELF IN EVENT RESULTS MERIT REPORTING.

2. NICHOLS IS HIGHLY KNOWLEDGEABLE ITALIAN SCENE (HAS REPRESENTED TIMES HERE FOR TEN YEARS) AND ENJOYS EXCELLENT REPUTATION AS FAIR AND BALANCED REPORTER. IN OUR VIEW, ANY TIME WE CAN DEVOTE TO NICHOLS AT LA MADDALENA WILL BE WELL SPENT IF THE SEPTEMBER CONFERENCE RESULTS IN ADVERSE PRESS COMMENT HERE. FACTUAL COVERAGE FROM THE PRESTIGIOUS LONDON TIMES WOULD HELP RESTORE PERSPECTIVE.

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3. NICHOLS WILL IN ANY EVENT LIKELY CALL ON COMMODORE BURKHALTER EITHER 28 OR 29 AUGUST. WE RECOMMEND THAT AT A MINIMUM COMMODOR BE AUTHORIZED TO BRIEF NICHOLS WITHIN NORMAL SECURITY CONSTRAINTS AND ARRANGE A VISIT TO SANTO STEPHANO WITH LUNCH ABOARD GILMORE. VOLPE

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